

THE FORTUNE HUNTER

Novelized by
LOUIS JOSEPH VANCE
From the Play of the
Same Name by
WINCHELL SMITH

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and Louis Joseph Vance

(Continued from Page 15.)
"You see, sir, it's this way. I want you to trust me with a considerable sum of money, and naturally you would not do that without knowing something about me."

"I incline very much to doubt that I should do it in any event, Mr. Duncan."

"Oh, don't say that. You don't know the circumstances as yet." Nat jerked his head around at the colonel. "You see, you're said to be one of the richest men in town, and I'm certainly one of the poorest, so of course I turn to you in a case like this."

Duncan could have sworn that the eyes were twinkling beneath the savagely knitted brows.

"You must understand I'm in business here in Radville—a partner in a growing and prospering concern—ab-doing—very well in point of fact."

"Yes?"
"But we haven't any spare capital. In fact, we haven't got any capital worth mentioning. But the business is entirely sound and solvent."

"I congratulate you, sir."
"Thank you very much. Now, I'm interested in a rather singular case, that of a young woman—a girl. I should say—daughter of my partner. She's a good girl and wonderfully sweet and true, sir. She comes of one of the best families in these parts."

"On her mother's side," suggested the colonel dryly.

"So I'm told, sir. But she's been neglected. Circumstances have been against her. She hasn't had a real chance in life, but she ought to have it, and I'm going to see that she gets it one way or another."

"You haven't finished?" said the colonel coldly.

"Not quite, sir," said Duncan. "Good sign," he told himself. "He hasn't ordered me thrown out yet."

"To come down to cases, sir, she ought to be sent to a good boarding school for a few years. It'll make a new woman of her—a woman to be proud of. She's got that in her. It only needs to be brought out."

"And before you leave, sir," said the colonel with significant precision, "will you be so kind as to inform me why you think this should interest me?"

"No," said Duncan candidly. "I haven't got the nerve to. But what I wanted to propose was this—that you lend me \$500 to cover the expense of the first year on condition that I represent the money as coming from the profits of the business and, in short, keep the transaction between ourselves absolutely quiet. If you'll inquire of Mr. Kellogg he'll tell you I can be trusted to keep my word. Furthermore," he galloped, suspecting that his time was perilously short and desiring to get it all out of his system—"I'll guarantee you repayment within a year and that you shan't be annoyed this way a second time."

Bohnn looked him over from head to foot, bowed in silence and, turning—both had stood throughout this passage—grasped a bell rope by the chimney and pulled it violently.

In the desolate fastnesses of that dreary house somewhere a bell tinkled discordantly. A moment later the white-headed darky butler opened the door.

"Sub?" he said.

Colonel Bohnn essayed to speak, cleared his throat angrily and indicated Duncan with a courteous gesture.

"Scipio," said he, "this gentleman will have a glass of wine with me."

"Yassuh!" stammered the negro.

Bohnn turned to his guest. "Won't you be seated, Mr. Duncan?" he said. "You have interested me considerably, sir, and I should be glad to discuss the matter with you."

Speechless, Duncan gasped incoherently and moved toward a chair as the servant reappeared with a tray on which was a decanter of sherry and two old-fashioned, thin stemmed crystal glasses. He placed this on the library table, filled the glasses and at a sign from Bohnn retired.

"Sir," said the colonel, indicating the tray, "to you, I hold it a privilege, sir, to drink to the only gentleman of spirit it's been my good fortune to meet this many a year."

By way of an aside, it should be mentioned that this was the first and only drink Duncan took while he lived in Radville.

CHAPTER XVII.
PROBABLY nothing ever gave rise to more comment in Radville than Betty Graham's departure to spend the winter at

a boarding school near Philadelphia. Hardly any one knew anything about it—in fact, the rumor of it was just being noised about and contemptuously discredited on all hands—when Tracey galloped down Main street Monday morning with the news that she had left on the early train.

Radville was at first stupefied, then clamorous, but there was little information to be got out of old Sam.

Duncan himself refused to be interviewed. He told everybody who had the impudence to mention the matter to him that it was Mr. Graham's affair. Mr. Graham was a substantial business man, he said, and if he chose to send his daughter away to school he had a perfect right to do so.

One direct result of it all was to hasten Josie's own leave taking. It would never do to let the Grahams eclipse the Lockwoods, you see. Josie had been talking of going to a school in Maryland, but Betty's move to a

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Here's the News You've Been
Anxiously Waiting

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Lots of sales begin big and peter out as the days go by. This one has made itself conspicuous because it has grown by jumps and bounds as it progresses. Each day surpasses its predecessor in sales strength and there must be some reason for it which does not require a pencil and paper to figure. If this sale was not "delivering the goods," and delivering them in satisfactory shape, the people would have discovered it at the beginning and we could not truthfully tell you that tomorrow will positively be the biggest day yet.

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\$15.00 Suits \$10.98
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Made of Wear Resisting Materials
Suits worth \$7.98 now \$5.98
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Everything that is Seasonable and Stylish, properly tailored. Sizes 34 to 50
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Ladies' and Misses' Long Coats
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Men's Pants
\$5.00 and \$6.00 values for \$3.98
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\$3.00 values for \$1.98

Ladies' Waists
\$1.00 values for \$.79
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Special care exercised in preparing these Raincoats. They represent all that is good in Raincoats. Made stylish and snappy and are really rainproof.
Sale Prices \$6.98, \$10.98, \$12.98 and \$15

Ladies' Suits
Everything that is Seasonable and Stylish, properly tailored. Sizes 34 to 50
\$15.00 values at \$11.98
\$18.00 values at \$14.00
\$22.00 values at \$17.50

Ladies' and Misses' Long Coats
\$12.98 values at \$ 9.98
\$16.50 values at \$12.98
\$22.50 values at \$18.00

Men's Pants
\$5.00 and \$6.00 values for \$3.98
\$4.00 and \$4.50 values for \$2.98
\$3.00 values for \$1.98

Ladies' Waists
\$1.00 values for \$.79
\$3.00 values for \$1.98
\$5.00 values for \$3.98

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Sale Prices \$6.98, \$10.98, \$12.98 and \$15

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\$2.98 values at \$1.98
\$4.00 values at \$2.98
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Ladies' Hats—BROWN, BLACK AND WHITE
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WANT ADS, CENT A WORD.

"Do you, really, Mr. Duncan?"
"I do. Do you want to marry her?"
"Geet! I can't hardly wait! Only," Tracey continued, disconsolate, "it ain't no use, really. She's so purty an' swell an' old man Tutill's so rich—not like the Lockwoods, but rich all the same—an' I'm only the son of the livery stable man an' fat an'—all that—"

(To be continued.)